Union Defence Force - South Africa

1 August 1914

THE PERMANENT FORCE:

South African Mounted Riflemen [1]

1st Regiment – *King William's Town*
2nd Regiment – *Pietermaritzburg*
3rd Regiment – *Dundee*
4th Regiment – *Pretoria*
5th Regiment – *Kimberley*
S.A.M.R. Training Depot – *Tempe*

THE CITIZEN FORCE

HQ – Pretoria

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 1

HQ – Cape Town

Coast Garrison Force

1st Division, S.A.G.A. (Cape Garrison Artillery) – *Cape Town*

Active Citizen Force

1st Squadron / 6th Mounted Rifles – *Cape Town*
1st Dismounted Brigade Train – *Cape Town*
2nd Infantry (Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles) – *Cape Town*
6th Infantry (Duke of Connaught & Strathearn's Own Cape Town Highlanders) – *Cape Town*
9th Infantry (The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment, Cape Peninsula Rifles) – *Cape Town*
1st Infantry Brigade Train – *Cape Town*
6th Citizen Battery (Prince Alfred's Own Cape Field Artillery) – *Cape Town*

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 2

HQ – Port Elizabeth

Active Citizen Force

7th Mounted Rifles (Southern Mounted Rifles) – *Oudtshoorn*
1st Mounted Brigade Train – *Uitenhage*
4th Dismounted Rifles (1st Southern Rifles) – *Port Elizabeth*
5th Dismounted Rifles (2nd Southern Rifles) – *Oudtshoorn*
3rd Infantry (Prince Alfred's Guard) – *Port Elizabeth*

[1] Each S.A.M.R. regiment (Permanent Force) was authorized 3 squadrons & 1 battery of horse artillery guns.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 3
HQ – East London

Active Citizen Force

8th Mounted Rifles (Midlandse Ruiters) – *Middelburg (Cape Province)*
6th Dismounted Rifles (Midland Rifles) – *Somerset East*
4th Infantry (1st Eastern Rifles) – *Queenstown*
5th Infantry (Kaffrarian Rifles) – *East London*

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 4
HQ – Pietermaritzburg

Active Citizen Force

1st Mounted Rifles (Natal Carabineers) – *Pietermaritzburg*
2nd Mounted Rifles (Natal Carabineers) – *Ladysmith*
3rd Mounted Rifles (Natal Mounted Rifles) – *Pietermaritzburg*
4th Mounted Rifles (Umvoti Mounted Rifles) – *Greytown*
2nd Mounted Brigade Train – *Pietermaritzburg*
7th Citizen Battery (Natal Field Artillery) – *Pietermaritzburg*

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 5
HQ – Durban

Coast Garrison Force

2nd Division, S.A.G.A. (Durban Garrison Artillery) – *Durban*

Active Citizen Force

1st Infantry (Durban Light Infantry) – *Durban*
2nd Infantry Brigade Train – *Durban*

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 6
HQ – Standerton

Active Citizen Force

9th Mounted Rifles (de Hoogeveld Ruiters) – *Ermelo*
10th Mounted Rifles (de Botha Ruiters) – *Standerton*
7th Dismounted Rifles (Hoogeveld Schutters) – *Standerton*

Commandos

Hazeldene's Barberton Cdo.
De Villiers' Bethal Cdo.
Botha's Natal Horse
Smit's Ermelo 1 Cdo.
Collins' Ermelo Cdo.
Kamffer's Heidelburg 2 Cdo.
Van Schalkwyk's Heidelburg Cdo.
Trigaardt's Nigel Cdo.
Engelbrecht's Piet Retief Cdo.
Bousefeld's Barberton Cdo.
Grobler's Bethal Cdo.
Mostert's Carolina Cdo.
Steenkamp's Ermelo 2 Cdo.
Kamffer's Heidelburg 1 Cdo.
Noltes' Heidelburg Cdo.
Greyling's Heidelburg Cdo.
De Jager's Piet Retief Cdo.
Wessel's Paulpietersberg Cdo.

Botha's Standerton Cdo.
Len's Utrecht Cdo.
Kruger's Vryheid Cdo.
Smuts' Wakkerstroom 2 Cdo.
Claassen's Standerton Cdo.
Emmett's Vryheid Cdo.
De Beer's Wakkerstroom 1 Cdo.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 7

HQ – Potchefstroom

Active Citizen Force

11th Mounted Rifles (Potchefstroom Ruiters) – *Potchefstroom*
12th Mounted Rifles (Krugersdorp Ruiters) – *Zeerust*
8th Dismounted Rifles (De La Rey's Ruiters) – *Potchefstroom*
9th Dismounted Rifles (Bechuanaland Rifles) – *Mafeking*

Commandos

Brink's Newcastle Cdo.
Visser's Bloemhof Cdo.
Grobeler's Scouts
Vorster's Krugersdorp Cdo.
Visser's Klerksdorp Cdo.
Visser's Lichtenburg Cdo.
Lombard's' Lichtenburg Cdo.
Greene's Lichtenburg Cdo.
Van Tonder's Marico Cdo.
Buitendach's Potchefstroom Cdo.
Bothma's Potchefstroom Cdo.
Holl's Potchefstroom Cdo.
Uys's Scouts
Du Toit's Wolmaranstad Cdo.
Visser's Wolmaranstad Cdo.
Mafeking Cdo.
Swart's Bloemhof Cdo.
De Beer's Christiana Cdo.
De la Rey's Krugersdorp Cdo.
Boshof's Klerksdorp Cdo.
Wessel's Lichtenburg Cdo.
Vermaas' Lichtenburg Cdo.
Van Wyks' Lichtenburg Cdo.
Van Niekerk's Marico Cdo.
Grobler's Potchefstroom Cdo.
Dreyers' Potchefstroom Cdo.
Olen's Potchefstroom Cdo.
Visser's Potchefstroom Cdo.
Yessel's Ventersdorp Cdo.
Van Rensberg's Wolmaranstad Cdo.
Du Plessis' Zeerust Cdo.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 8

HQ – Johannesburg

Active Citizen Force

5th Mounted Rifles (Imperial Light Horse) – *Johannesburg*
3rd Mounted Brigade Train – *Johannesburg*
8th Infantry (Transvaal Scottish) – *Johannesburg*
10th Infantry (Witwatersrand Rifles) – *Johannesburg*
11th Infantry (Rand Light Infantry) – *Johannesburg*
3rd Infantry Brigade Train – *Johannesburg*
8th Citizen Battery (Transvaal Horse Artillery) – *Johannesburg*

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 9
HQ – Pretoria

Active Citizen Force

13th Mounted Rifles (Noordelike Transvaal Bereden Schutters) – *Pretoria*
10th Dismounted Rifles (Noordelike Transvaal Grens Wacht) – *Pretoria*
2nd Dismounted Brigade Train – *Pretoria*
12th Infantry (Pretoria Regiment) – *Pretoria*
9th Citizen Battery [Field Artillery] – *Pretoria*

Commandos

Mare's Dullstroom Cdo.
Goosen's Trichardsdorp Cdo.
Mouton's Middelburg Cdo.
Jones' Pretoria Cdo.
Moller's Pietersberg Cdo.
Van Heerden's Rustenburg Cdo.
Klopper's Rustenburg Cdo.
Van Tonder's Horse
Swart's Lydenburg Cdo.
Hamon's Middelburg Cdo.
Bierman's Middelburg Cdo.
Opperman's Pretoria Cdo.
Erasmus' Pietersberg Cdo.
Verster's Rustenburg Cdo.
Van de Venter's Horse
Geyser's Waterberg Cdo.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 10
HQ – Kroonstad

Active Citizen Force

14th Mounted Rifles (Steyn's Bereden Schutters) – *Kroonstad*
15th Mounted Rifles (De Wet's Ruiters) – *Harrismith*
4th Mounted Brigade Train – *Kroonstad*
11th Dismounted Rifles (Oranje Scherpschutters) – *Lindley*

Commandos

Bultfontein Cdo.
Botha's Light Horse
Hoopstad Cdo.
Thring's Kroonstad Cdo.
Ladybrand Cdo.
Reitz Cdo.
Thring's Light Horse
Vrede Cdo.
Pretorius' Winburg Cdo.
Bethlehem Cdo.
Frankfort Cdo.
Harrismith Cdo.
Denecker's Kroonstad Cdo.
Lindley Cdo.
Senekal Cdo.
Vredefort Cdo.
Cronje's Winburg Cdo.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 11
HQ – Bloemfontein

Active Citizen Force

16th Mounted Rifles (Eerste Vrijstaatse Regiment) – *Bloemfontein*
12th Dismounted Rifles (President Brand's Regiment) – *Bloemfontein*
3rd Dismounted Brigade Train – *Bloemfontein*
7th Infantry (Kimberley Regiment) – *Kimberley*
10th Citizen Battery [Field Artillery] – *Bloemfontein*

11th Citizen Battery [Field Artillery] – *Kimberley*

Commandos

Brand's Horse "A"
Bethulie Cdo.
De Burg Patrols
Ficksburg Cdo.
Glen Cdo.
Kaffir River Cdo.
Parys Cdo.
Smithfield Cdo.
Thromsberg Cdo.
Brand's Horse "B"
Boshof Cdo.
Edenburg Cdo.
Fauresmith Cdo.
Heilbron Cdo.
Philippolis Cdo.
Rousville Cdo.
Thaba'Nchu Cdo.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 12

HQ – Prieska [2]

Active Citizen Force

1st Indep. Mounted Rifle Sqdn. (1ste Boesmanland Bereden Schutters) – *Prieska*
2nd Indep. Mounted Rifle Sqdn. (2de Boesmanland Bereden Schutters) – *Calvinia*
3rd Indep. Mounted Rifle Sqdn. (3de Boesmanland Bereden Schutters) – *Griquastad*
1st Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. (1ste Boesmanland Scherpschutters) – *Prieska*
2nd Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. (2de Boesmanland Scherpschutters) – *Calvinia*
3rd Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. (3de Boesmanland Scherpschutters) – *Griquastad*

Commandos

Clan William Cdo.
Louw's Calvinia Cdo.
Gordonia Cdo.
Prieska Cdo.
Studer's Springbok Cdo.
Pretorius' Calvinia Cdo.
Vermaas's Scouts
Carnarvon Cdo.
Fraserburg Cdo.
Niewoudsville Cdo.
Sutherland Cdo.
Van Rhynsdorp Cdo.
Kenhardt Cdo.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 13

HQ – De Aar [3]

Active Citizen Force

4th Indep. Mounted Rifle Sqdn. – *De Aar*
5th Indep. Mounted Rifle Sqdn. – *De Aar*
6th Indep. Mounted Rifle Sqdn. – *Ceres*
4th Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. – *De Aar*
5th Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. – *De Aar*
6th Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. – *Ceres*

[2] HQ subsequently relocated to Calvinia.
[3] HQ subsequently relocated to Kimberly.

Commandos

Barkley West Cdo.
Hopetown Cdo.
Herbert Cdo.
Kimberly District Patrols
Midland Scouts
Vryburg Cdo.
Cullinan's Horse
Hay Cdo.
Kimberly Central Cdo.
Zyl's Kuruman Cdo.
Parkinson's Horse
De Aar Cdo.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 14 [4]

HQ – Worcester

Active Citizen Force

6th Mounted Rifles (Cape Light Horse) [minus 1st Sqdn.] – *Worcester*
1st Dismounted Rifles (1st Western Province Rifles) – *Worcester*
2nd Dismounted Rifles (2nd Western Province Rifles) – *Malmesbury*
3rd Dismounted Rifles (3rd Western Province Rifles) – *Stellenbosch*

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 15 [5]

HQ – Graaff Reinet

Commandos

Aliwal North Cdo.
Cradock-Philipstown Cdo.
Graaff-Reinet Cdo.
Murraysburg Cdo.
Britstown Cdo.
Cedarville Cdo.
Hanover-Colesburg Cdo.
Victoria West Cdo.

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Notes (v5):

1. This Order of Battle addresses the peacetime South African forces as of 1 August 1914. These consisted of a **Permanent Force** of staffs, cadres, and South African Mounted Riflemen (a regular army force with police duties); a **Coast Garrison Force**; and an **Active Citizen Force** of volunteer/compulsory citizen soldiers. Also included are **Commandos**, local defense forces mobilized in time of emergency. The commando units listed here are ones which actually mobilized in 1914, and many of these served during the internal rebellion and/or the campaign in German Southwest Africa. The South African Union Defence Act of 1914 prohibited deployment of South African troops beyond the borders of South Africa and the immediate neighboring territories. In order to send troops to Europe to support the British in World War I, the South African Overseas Expeditionary Force was created in July of 1915. As such it is not addressed in this OB.

2. Except for the commandos, the primary source for this OB is the British official ***Quarterly Army List*** for Jan-Mar 1914, supplemented by the Oct-Dec edition (which left out most details for security reasons). Additional readings from the time were consulted and all Citizen Force units listed were confirmed by multiple sources with the following exceptions: the 14th Mounted Rifles (Steyn's Bereden Schutters) –

[4] Originally designated Military Sub-District No. 1A.
[5] Military District No. 15 formed subsequent to Jan-Mar edition of the Army List.

Kroonstad, the 16th Mounted Rifles (Eerste Vrijstaatse Regiment) – *Bloemfontein*, the 12th Dismounted Rifles (President Brand's Regiment) – *Bloemfontein*, the 1st Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. (1ste Boesmanland Scherpschutters) – *Prieska*, the 2nd Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. (2de Boesmanland Scherpschutters) – *Calvinia*, and the 3rd Indep. Dismounted Rifle Sqdn. (3de Boesmanland Scherpschutters) – *Griquastad*, all of which were listed in both of the editions of the Army List consulted, and all of which were noted as forming in July of 1913. I have not been able to access enough material to determine why these units subsequently seemed to disappear. They could have failed to meet recruiting goals and been disbanded or amalgamated with other units, or even taken part in the rebellion and self-disbanded. I leave this to other researchers.

3. Included in the OB are combat units (cavalry/infantry/artillery) and service support units ("Trains" i.e. logistics) only. Separate engineer and signal units were not addressed in the Army List, nor were Brigade Headquarters. A number of units were noted in the Army List as in the process of organizing as of January-March 1914. In addition, at this time there was a fledgling South African Aviation Corps consisting of six lieutenants.

4. The army, barely two years old in its new organization, was in the process of forming units. By December of 1914 newly raised units of the Citizen Force included the:

2/5th Mounted Rifles (2nd Imperial Light Horse) → Mil. Dist. No.8
17th Mounted Rifles (Western Province Mounted Rifles) → Mil. Dist. No. 1
18th Mounted Rifles (Griqualand West Ruiters) → Mil. Dist. No. 1
19th Mounted Rifles (Transkei Mounted Rifles) → Mil. Dist. No. 3
20th Mounted Rifles (Graaff-Reinet Ruiters) → Mil. Dist. No. 15
Natal Light Horse → Mil. Dist. No. 4
13th Dismounted Rifles (Lichtenburgh Ruiters) → Mil. Dist. No. 7
14th Dismounted Rifles (Karroo Schutters) → Mil. Dist. No. 15
2nd Battalion / 1st Infantry (Durban Light Infantry) → Mil. Dist. No. 5
2nd Battalion / 7th Infantry (Kimberley Regiment) → Mil. Dist. No. 13
2nd Battalion / 8th Infantry (Transvaal Scottish) → Mil. Dist. No. 8
1st Rhodesian Regiment → Mil. Dist. No. 10
The South African Irish → Mil. Dist. No. 8
The Rand Rifles → Mil. Dist. No. 8

The remainder of 1914 saw the Citizen Force form some dozen machine gun sections; additional brigade trains; and mobilize more than 14 rifle associations to guard infrastructure locales. In addition, there were "intelligence units" (i.e. reconnaissance detachments) formed as follows:

1st Natal Guides
Winterboek Intelligence Corps
Paardekraal Verkenners
Rand Intelligence Corps
Orange Verkenners
Karroo Verkenners
Celliers' Scouts
Lemmer's Scouts
Swart's Scouts
Helgaardt's Scouts
Botha's Scouts

2nd Natal Guides
Border Guides
Ostelike Transvaal Verkinnings Corps
Northern Transvaal Intelligence Corps
Northern Free State Intelligence Crops
Boesmanland Informatie Eenheid
Enslin's Horse
De la Rey's / Oosthuizen's Scouts
Collins' Scouts
Hunt's Scouts

Prof. Charles Kamps,
5 February 2015